

during appropriation season, of course, Democrats and Republicans debate our differences, but we have always historically rallied together in opposition to taxpayer-funded abortions, and we have adopted the bipartisan Hyde amendment.

However, for some inexplicable reason, this year is different. In 1994, then-Senator Joe Biden famously stated: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them." Of course, he was right. But the President's position has changed now, giving fuel to the fire of Democrat leadership here in this House to follow suit in their own funding bills.

It is time to make these Hyde amendment protections permanent. It is true: Hyde saves lives. And today I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the inherent dignity of every single human life, rejecting this blatant attack on pro-life amendments like the Hyde amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

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STANDING WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom.

Today, I ask that the Cuban Government respect basic human rights, basic religious freedoms, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and the freedom to be heard.

Today, I ask that the Cuban Government listen to the plight of the Cuban people.

Deteriorating living conditions, rising healthcare concerns, COVID-19, all of these factors have left the Cuban people hungry, vulnerable, and very angry.

That is why, after decades of repression, thousands of brave men and women, especially young people, have taken to the streets of Cuba, marching to be heard, demanding that the Cuban Government respond to their pleas for help.

Instead, the Cuban Government has responded by halting internet access and beating and arresting Cuban citizens that are calling for freedom.

In Havana alone, the Cuban Government has attacked protesters and arrested more than 100 young people.

If the Government of Cuba wants to normalize relations with the United States, the first thing the Cuban Government has to do is to respect human rights and religious freedoms.

STANDING AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME

(Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and against the illegitimate, violent dictatorship that continues to assault the basic freedoms and rights of the Cuban people.

This photo here behind me is of two of my heroes, my abuelo and abuela. In 1960, they and their children were forced from their homeland by the communist regime for having the audacity to say no to Castro and his thugs.

Sixty years later, that same regime and that same poisonous ideology wreak terror on the Cuban people as the people march courageously in the streets, knowing full well what brutality awaits them as they ask for the most basic of human rights.

Yet, there are some in this body who foolishly wish to blame America for the plight of the island and the suffering of the Cubans. Let me say emphatically that the Cuban people are suffering and crying out for freedom because the communists have spent 60 years cynically destroying their country and trying to break the spirit of their own people. They will not succeed.

I stand firmly against the Castro regime and any of their apologists, and I stand with the Cuban people who are crying out for freedom.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, throughout my career, I have worked to protect vulnerable populations.

Yesterday, I was proud to support the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, which will aim to protect exploited consumers, including the elderly, who are oftentimes the most at risk.

The Federal Trade Commission has an essential role to safeguard consumers from businesses that utilize misleading and deceptive practices. These bad actors must be held accountable, and the victims of any scam deserve justice.

I appreciate the leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to ensure that the FTC has the capabilities it needs to protect all individuals from fraud.

I encourage our Senate colleagues to consider this important legislation as soon as possible.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, nearly 20 years ago, I introduced legislation in this House, which passed the House and the Senate. President George W. Bush signed it into law, and it went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and now is the law of the land. It banned partial-birth abortion in this country.

While that was landmark legislation, today, it is more important than ever that we protect innocent unborn life.

That is why, a little over a month ago, the city of Lebanon in my congressional district back home became one of more than 30 cities across the country, and the first in Ohio, to become a sanctuary city for the unborn.

It is why I have consistently and enthusiastically supported legislation which would get rid of the funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates and supported legislation like H.R. 18, which codifies the Hyde amendment to ensure that Federal taxpayer money does not fund abortions.

And it is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

We should not allow tax dollars to go for funding other people's abortions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

GUN VIOLENCE PLAGUES OUR COUNTRY

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the gun violence plaguing this country and the elected officials who stand by and watch, content on not passing new laws to address its scourge on the American people.

I rise for the 9-year anniversary of the mass shooting that took place in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, 9 years ago this week—12 lives gone, 70 injured.

I rise for all of those who were at the baseball game just this last weekend around the corner, running for their lives because they heard there was a shooting.

Your gun rights are not under attack when 23 million firearms were sold in the United States of America in 2020 alone. But what is under attack is your ability to live freely in this country without the threat of gun violence in a movie theater, in your place of worship, in your school, in your backyard, or driving around at night.